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NEA grants awarded

Two Montana arts organizations recently received grants from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Intermountain Opera Association of Bozeman received \$12,000 to support performances of Puccini's "Suor Angelica" and "Gianni Schicchi" May 15 and 17. Conducted by Christopher Allen, the cast will include soprano Maria Kanyova and baritone Levi Hernandez. Educational and outreach activities to build audiences include a public workshop, a performance for elementary school students, classes for high school students and adults, and a poster contest.

Whitefish Theatre Company received \$10,000 to support a performance by Jayme Stone and the Lomax Project and associated outreach activities. The group's concert on Feb. 5 will feature interpretations of folklorist Alan Lomax's field recordings, including a repertoire of sea shanties, Appalachian ballads, and fiddle tunes.



Gwen Florio

MORE CONGRATS TO ...

Billings artist **Jane Waggoner Deschner**, whose solo exhibition, "Face Value: Embroidered Found Photographs" is on display Jan. 31-April 25 at the University of Wyoming Art Museum in Laramie. Nearly 100 embroidered found photographs will hang in the gallery, including a 26-part piece titled "A to Z series (famous quotes, Muralcraft Studio proofs)," which pairs famous quotes with photos taken by Muralcraft Studios in the '50s and '60s.



"From the A to Z series (E, Eastwood, toaster)," by Jane Waggoner Deschner

Missoula artists **Monte Dolack and Mary Beth Percival**, who were honored by the Cinnabar Foundation with the Len and Sandy Sargent Stewardship Award. The ceremony was held in October at the Montana Natural History Center in Missoula. In presenting the 16th annual award, Cinnabar Foundation Chair Robin Tawney Nichols noted, "For more than 30 years, you have thoughtfully rendered the intangible tangible, sometimes poking fun to make us think, sometimes subtly reminding us of our precious natural heritage through beautiful landscapes and wildlife, sometimes not so subtly laying bare the consequences of our First World lifestyle, always nudging our consciences." Dolack and Percival's commitment to preserving Montana's environment is matched by their generosity. They've raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for conservation nonprofits – many of which are partners in conservation with the Cinnabar Foundation – through the sale of commissioned prints, posters, postcards and license plates. Their recognition for outstanding achievements in conservation was accompanied by a special grant of \$5,000, which the couple may designate to be donated to one or more nonprofit conservation groups doing work in Montana.

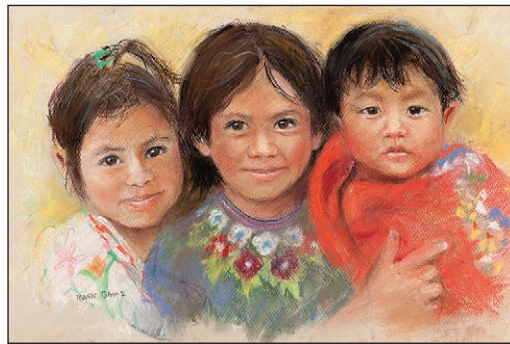
Shirley Cleary of Helena, whose multi-media drawing, "O'Connor's Place," was selected for inclusion in North Light's upcoming publication, *Strokes of Genius 14*. The book, slated for release in November 2015, will feature drawings that emphasize depth or dramatic perspective. The piece, which captures the view from a high bluff on a friend's sheep ranch outside Gore, New Zealand, was created using Copic marker and acrylic on canvas.



"O'Connor's Place" by Shirley Cleary

Judith Colvin of Charlo and **Annette Cade** of Helena who recently received the Living Treasure Award from the Montana Association of Weavers and Spinners (MAWS). The award is bestowed biennially on a fiber artist who has demonstrated excellence in craftsmanship, provided leadership or been a source of inspiration and encouragement to others, or who has contributed to the betterment and development of fiber arts at the local, state, regional or national level.

Helena portrait artist **Mary Gayle Shanahan**, who was recently invited by the Catholic Diocese of Spokane to paint a portrait of some of the children of Guatemala who are served by the mission that the diocese sponsors in that country. The Spokane program is designed to enhance the healthcare, economic, social and educational well-being, and religious needs and growth of the Mayan people of Guatemala. Shanahan visited Guatemala at the invitation of Bishop Elden Curtiss for the 25th anniversary of the missions of the Diocese of Helena in that country, and created the pastel portrait "Young Ladies of Guatemala."



"Young Ladies of Guatemala" by Mary Gayle Shanahan

Montana novelist **Gwen Florio**, who has been accepted to the prestigious 360 Xochi Quetzal artists' residency in Chapala, Mexico. Florio, a former *Missoulian* reporter and editor, was among five residents selected from an international slate of applicants for the free month-long residency. "Her fiction makes us face social issues with a journalist's fascination for the details of character, circumstance, and place," said a Xochi Quetzal juror. Florio's novel, *Montana* (The Permanent Press, 2013) recently won the High Plains Book Award in the first book category. It also won the inaugural Pinckley Prize for debut crime fiction. Her second novel, *Dakota*, was published last February. The residency runs from mid-December through mid-January.

Author **Gary Robson** of Red Lodge and illustrator **Robert Rath** of Bozeman, whose book, *Who Pooped in the Cascades?* took the silver medal in the Non-fiction: Animals/Pets category of the Moonbeam Children's Book Awards. The Moonbeam Awards recognize the year's best children's books. More than 1,300 books were submitted for consideration in 2014. The book on wildlife scat, tracks and natural history was published by **Farcountry Press** of Helena, and marks the publisher's eighth book award in 2014.

CONDOLENCES TO ...

The family and friends of actress **Misty Upham**. Known for her roles in "Frozen River," "August: Osage County" and "Django Unchained," she died unexpectedly in Seattle at age 32. Upham was a member of the Blackfoot Tribe, and much of her work explored the experience of indigenous people in America. She was nominated for an Independent Spirit Award for her work in "Frozen River," and her work in "August: Osage County" contributed to the cast's nomination for outstanding performance from the Screen Actors Guild. She was born in Kalispell, and grew up in south Seattle, the fourth of five children. She began her career at the age of 13 when she joined a community theater group, Red Eagle Soaring. What began as a summer workshop soon turned into a full-time job. By the age of 14 she was writing and directing short skits and performing on tours throughout the Northwest. In the next four years she would be accepted to several Seattle theater companies, all while attending high school. Her first break came in 2001 when she landed the role of Mrs. Blue Cloud in Chris Eyre's sophomore project "Skins" (2002), where she portrayed a victim of domestic abuse on the Pine Ridge reservation. In 2013, she appeared alongside Benicio del Toro as his love interest in the movie "Jimmy P: Psychotherapy of a Plains Indian," portions of which were filmed in Montana; she also acted alongside Jennifer Aniston in the 2014 film "Cake."



Rib Gustafson

The family and friends of author, rancher and veterinarian **Rib Gustafson**. He peacefully slipped out from under the Chinook Arch on Oct. 30, surrounded by his children in the family home. Gustafson was born May 1, 1925, at the family home near Rapelje, and began school at Big Timber Creek. After his dad died of Rocky Mountain spotted fever,

the family lost their hard-earned ranch, and eventually moved to Bozeman, where his mother ran a boarding school for college students. Gustafson graduated from high school and attended MSU, and with his brothers, Duke and Bill, imported the first Texas Quarter Horses to Montana, establishing a Gustafson horse and agriculture legacy that continues to this day. Gustafson enlisted in the Navy in 1943 and became a naval aviator before completing college. He was accepted to veterinary school at Colorado A&M, where he became a world-class skier, matriculating in 1951. After becoming a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, Rib camped under his beloved Chinook Arch for the rest of his life. He established a veterinary practice in Conrad and in 1953 married Patricia Galt; they enthusiastically raised five children, Sid, Kris, Erik, Barr and Wylie. Gustafson became a classy powder skier, bulldogger, storyteller, veterinarian and rancher. He was an AQHA judge, state legislator (1961), Conrad school board member, chairman of the Montana Board of Environmental Health (1994-1998) and humanitarian for all. For more on his large, generous life, read his two books, *Under the Chinook Arch* and *Room to Roam*.

– Excerpted from the *Great Falls Tribune*

The family and friends of musician **Stanley "Stan" H. Baran**. He died Oct. 6 at home in Great Falls; he was 50. Baran, who played the trumpet, cornet and flugelhorn, received his degrees in music performance and music teaching from the University of Northern Colorado. He played with a small band called Impromptu, the Great Falls Municipal Band, the UGF Community Band, and various other small groups. He also played on cruises with various jazz bands and performing artists. He traveled the world for five years before moving back to Great Falls, where he enjoyed visiting with, and playing for, those in local nursing homes, performing with the other musicians at St. Ann's Cathedral, and being a part of that church and musical family.

– Excerpted from the *Great Falls Tribune*

The friends and family of **Brian Charles Eder**. The former owner and publisher of the *Philipsburg Mail* died Oct. 13 in Philipsburg. He was born 50 years ago in Minneapolis and graduated from the University of Minnesota, Bemidji, and worked as a program director for a television station in White Bear Lake, MN, before moving to Colorado. In his mid-30s, Eder bought the *Philipsburg Mail* and became an active member of this community. He started his own newspaper, *The Clark Fork Journal*, in the Bitterroot Valley, and then worked for the *Sidney Herald* until he was diagnosed with a brain disease. He came back to Philipsburg, where he lived until his death.